



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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DATE August 23, 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES INCREASE IN 2005

(Helena) --- Workplace deaths in Montana increased 28 percent from 2004 to 2005, with a total of 50 work-related fatalities, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) study report released today by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.

"The average number of fatalities in Montana over the last 10 years is 49. 2004 presented a significant dip to 39," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "However, rising back to 50 fatalities demonstrates a real need for Montana to foster a workplace safety culture invested in by employers and employees."

The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry led in fatal occupational injuries with 25 of the total (50 percent). The second highest industry was construction with seven (14 percent), followed by transportation and warehousing industry with five (10 percent). Retail trade and wholesale trade industries had three fatalities each (6 percent each).

- Twenty (40 percent) of the employees fatally injured during 2005 worked for others, earning wages or salaries.
- Thirty (60 percent) were self-employed workers -- including farmers and paid and unpaid family workers.
- Transportation incidents accounted for 19 (38 percent) of the 50 fatal occupational injuries to Montana workers during 2005.
- Contact with objects had 14 (28 percent).
- Assaults & violent acts accounted for eight (16 percent) of the fatalities
- And seven (14 percent) fatalities were reported as a result of falls.

Fatal workplace injuries were highest among the 65 years and older category with 13 deaths (26 percent). The age category with second highest number of workplace fatalities was 45-54 years with ten deaths (20 percent). The 55-64 years category had nine deaths (18 percent), the 35-44 years category accounted for six deaths (12 percent), the 25-34 years category had five (10 percent), and the 20-24 category years had four (8 percent) of the fatalities.

- Males accounted for 90 percent of Montana work-related fatalities in 2005.

The fatality census, conducted throughout the nation, is part of a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Safety and Health Statistics program that provides a complete count of fatal work injuries in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Fatality statistics are used to fulfill a commitment to increasing safety in the workplace.

The CFOI study includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Act or other federal or state agency regulations, or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage.

Information on work-related illnesses is excluded from this census because of the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the resulting difficulties associated with linking illnesses to work. For additional information, contact Peggy Coggeshall at the Department of Labor Research and Analysis Bureau, 406-444-2430.

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